

## **IDAHO COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

**Definition - Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) for regional and local councils.**

**Note:** The adoption of this definition of SED by the ICCMH does not affect an individual agency's definition of SED or an individual agency's criteria for services.

**SUBMITTED TO ICCMH:** December 16, 2003

**APPROVAL DATE:** December 16, 2003

**DECISION:** The ICCMH adopted the following definition of Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) for use by regional and local councils for youth accessing services through the local councils.

**A Serious Emotional Disturbance is defined as a child under the age of 18 [or 21 if served by an Individualized Education Program (IEP)], presenting with a diagnosable condition as determined by the DSM-IV or DSM-IV-TR. A substance abuse disorder or developmental disorder, alone, does not constitute a serious emotional disturbance although one or more of these two disorders may co-exist with a serious emotional disorder. Additionally, the child must have a functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in the family, community or school. The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) or the Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale (PECFAS) will measure functional impairment. A score of 80 or above indicates a substantial functional impairment.**